

Basic Requirements

- Must be a **federally** recognized tribal member
- Must be between the age of 18-31
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Must receive tribal recommendation
- Must complete the BIA Water Resources Technician Training application process



For more information contact:

Branch of Water Resources
Program Manager
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW

Phone: (202) 208-6043
E-mail: archie.barnes@bia.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Native American Water Corps Program 2015



Native American Water Corps Summer for American Indians and Alaska Natives

Native American Water Corps Program

Across the country, Native Americans face vital, complex water resource management issues. With increasing demand on limited water resources, challenges include everything from ensuring basic sanitation and safeguarding drinking water quality, to protecting fisheries and maintaining critical stream and wetland habitat. The ability of tribes to sustain the quality of life on their lands often directly depends on effective management of their water resources. However, tribes also face a shortage of Native Americans in technical fields like water resource development and management.

Responding to the need and desire for water resource management expertise, the Bureau of Indian Affairs spearheaded a program aimed at developing the tribes' most valuable resource: their people. You are invited to participate in this program. If you are a tribal representative, encourage individuals to apply. If you represent a water resource organization or agency, call to find out how you can support this important program.

Introduction

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognizes the need for trained Tribal members to manage the water resource within their Tribal lands. Tribal leaders are challenged to protect, manage, and develop limited water resources, to promote economic and cultural growth while encouraging Tribal self-sufficiency.

The goal of the Water Resource Technician Training Program is to expose Tribal members to practical and applied water resource concepts, to offer career – defining internships upon successful completion and to provide experience in their Tribal governments.

Quality of Instructors

Instructors, highly qualified experts with extensive experience in both water resources and training who are passionate about learning and want to share that passion with the students. Many possess both national and international experience. The high caliber of instructors is one of the strengths of this overwhelmingly successful program, allowing students to immediately build an impressive network of contacts in environmental fields.



First Class Instruction

Starting from a non-technical base, this comprehensive program gives students a foundation for understanding the complexities of water management. Classroom learning focuses on building practical skills to deal with scientific, environmental, legal, administrative, and cultural considerations. The course covers topics such as biology, watershed management, wastewater treatment, water rights, as well as math and English skills. Career options, further training opportunities, and personal interests are addressed throughout the course. Students get their feet wet and their hands dirty in this holistic, intensive six-week training course. Hands-on experience in flow measurement, water quality analysis, computer applications, waste management, and more, forms a cornerstone of the course. Curricula are tailored for the students, with emphasis on tackling unique situations faced by participating tribes.

Tribes Gain a Measure of Self-Sufficiency...

The Water Resources Technician Training Program is designed to promote tribal self-sufficiency by enabling tribes to perform their own planning, management, surveying, and laboratory tasks

when they put graduates to work. Each participating tribe receives a grant to employ a graduate for a year. Students are encouraged to pursue careers with their tribes and to further their education in the fields of water resources and environmental studies.



Prospects

The Water Resources Technician Training Program has been called one of the most successful beneficial to tribes programs that has ever been offered. The program has

produced 852 graduates from more than 290 tribes from 1992 to 2014. Tribes have benefitted from this program by getting trained technical personnel who are familiar with their reservation and its natural resources. For many participants, the program has had a major impact on their careers and quality of life. Some of the graduates have pursued a college degree after completing the program while others have acquired positions in the field.

Tribal Students Gain Skills to Take Home...

The Water Resources Technician Training Program introduces talented Native Americans to the professional fields of water resource management. Students gain skills they can take home and put directly to work in protecting and managing tribal water resources.

The Program

The program consists of 4 weeks of extensive water training incorporating field trips and applied water resource concepts. Upon successful completion of the training each participant will receive a 4-6 month voucher from the BIA to be a full-time employee as an entry level water resource technician.

